

Around the South

August 2007, Vol. 3 No. 8

■ SRDC Publications

- **New Issue of the SRDC's *Food Assistance of the South's Vulnerable Populations* Now Available**

Overweight and obesity are leading public health concerns in the United States. Although overweight and obesity are preventable conditions in the majority of cases, their prevalence has increased significantly over the past two decades. Recent estimates indicate that 34.1 percent of Americans are classified as overweight, while 32.2 percent are classified as obese [17]. National estimates of obesity-related health care costs are alarming, yet, to date, no such estimates have been published for the Southern region overall or for population groups in the South. The Southern states have some of the highest rates of adult obesity in the nation. The objectives of this study, conducted by Jerome Kolbo, Wendy Bounds and Jacquelyn Lee from the University of Southern Mississippi and Amal J. Khoury from the University of Florida, were to determine the prevalence of overweight and obesity in the Southern region for adults overall and for population groups, and to estimate overweight- and obesity-related health care expenses for adults overall and for population groups, including age, gender, race/ethnicity, education and income groups. Read this brief at

http://srdc.msstate.edu/focusareas/health/fa/fa_13_kolbo.pdf.

■ National Items of Interest

- **Casey Foundation's Annual KIDS COUNT Data Book Released**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released its 18th annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, providing national and state-by-state information and statistical trends on the conditions of America's children and families. According to the book, the nation has seen improvement over the past five years in key areas such as child death rates, teen birth rates, high school dropout rates, and teens not in school and not working. However, four areas have worsened, including low-birthweight babies, children living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment, children in poverty and children in single-parent families. Southern states did not fare well on many of the indicators, with nine Southern states in the bottom ten in the nation in terms of the overall KIDS COUNT ranking. Data is also available in an online database that enables users to generate custom

graphs, maps, ranked lists, and state-by-state profiles. Access both the book and online database at <http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/KIDSCOUNT.aspx>.

- **Kellogg Foundation Now Offering Multi-Media Best Practices Via Website**

The website of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is now offering best practices in areas such as rural development, health and volunteerism has not only written profiles, but also videos, featuring over 100 different programs. The South is well-represented by efforts such as the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, the Rural Elderly Enhancement program in Alabama's Black Belt region and the Pointe Coupee Community Enrichment Fund in rural Louisiana. Browse the offerings at

<http://www.wkkf.org/default.aspx?tabid=1132&CID=-1&CatID=-1&NID=225&LanguageID=0&dg969pi=1>.

- **National Center for Education Statistics Releases "Status of Education in Rural America"**

This report presents a series of indicators on the status of education in rural America based on their actual geographic coordinates into one of 12 locale categories and distinguishes between rural areas that are on the fringe of an urban area, rural areas that are at some distance, and rural areas that are remote. The findings of this report indicate that in 2003-04, over half of all operating school districts and one-third of all public schools in the United States were in rural areas. However, only one-fifth of all public school students were enrolled in rural areas. To find out more, download or order the full report from the NCES website at

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007040>.

- **SARE Announces Photo Contest in Support of 20th Anniversary Conference**

In celebration of its 20th Anniversary, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has announced its first-ever national photo competition. The theme is, "Groundbreaking Innovations, People and Partnerships in Sustainable Agriculture." The top four photos, one from each of SARE's regions in the United States, will receive grand prizes of free attendance and accommodations at the anniversary conference, to be held March 25-27, 2008 in Kansas City, Missouri. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2007. Full details can be found at

<http://www.sare.org/2008conference/photocontest.htm>.

■ Funding Opportunities

- **Small Business Innovation Research: Rural Development**

Due date: September 5, 2007

Request for Application: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/08_sbir.pdf

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**

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<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/aug07.htm> -- Available August 27

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development, and other related disciplines.

■ SRDC Sponsored Conferences & Trainings

- **2007 Joint Meeting of PLN, AEA & ASRED**

August 28-31, 2007

Louisville, Kentucky

<http://srpln.msstate.edu/conferences/07pln/>

■ Other Conferences & Trainings

- ***Building Communities* Educational Series, "Community and Economic Development"**

September 14, 2007 -- June 13, 2008

Web Trainings

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/communities/Building_Community.cfm

- **RCCA Annual Conference**

"Red Hot, Rural and Ready!"

September 23-25, 2007

Albuquerque, New Mexico

<http://rcca.msgovt.org/rcca2007/>

- **Community and Faith Leadership Development Conference**

"Celebrating a Decade of Extending, Engaging, and Empowering"

Southern University AgCenter

September 26-28, 2007

Baton Rouge, LA

<http://www.suagcenter.com/faithbased2007/FaithBased07.html>

- **Transatlantic Conference on the Science and Education of Land Use**

September 24-26, 2007

Washington, DC

<http://nercrd.psu.edu/taluc/>

- **Southern Region Water Quality Conference**
 October 15-19, 2007
 Fayetteville, Arkansas
<http://www.arnatural.org/water/>
- **Frameworks for Entrepreneurship Research in Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Workshop**
 October 18-19, 2007
 Kauffman Foundation
 Kansas City, Missouri
<http://dass.missouri.edu/agecon/mccel/workshop/>
- **Rural Community College Initiative Institute**
 Strengthening the Partnership between Louisiana Community and Technical College System, LSU AgCenter and the Southern Rural Development Center
 October 30-November 1, 2007
 Oak Grove, Louisiana
http://srdc.msstate.edu/rcci/07institute_la/
- **3rd Annual Access and Opportunity Summit**
 “Empowering Latino Student Success through Action and Multicultural Partnerships”
 Sponsored by Bluegrass Community and Technical College Office of Hispanic Outreach and Services and Kentucky State University Land-Grant’s Hispanic Initiative
 November 1-2, 2007
 Lexington, Kentucky
Call for Proposals deadline is August 25, 2007 -- email abstracts to: erin.howard@kctcs.edu
- **NASULGC Annual Meeting**
 "120 Years: Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future"
 November 11-13, 2007
 New York, New York
<http://www.nasulgc.org>
- **4th Annual Tri-State Diversity Conference: Expanding our Cultural Circles**
 January 17-18, 2008
 Clarksville, Indiana
<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/dearborn/diversityconf.htm>
- **SARE 20th Anniversary National Conference**
 March 25-27, 2008
 Kansas City, Missouri
<http://sare.org/2008Conference/index.htm>

- **6th Biennial ANREP (Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals)**
 "Leopolds legacy: Extension's Response to a Changing World"
 May 20-23, 2008
 Madison, Wisconsin
Call for Proposals is now open
<http://www.anrep.org/conferences/news-460a75a1c6611.pdf>

■ People in the News

- Dr. Sylvia Blankenship has been named Interim Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

■ Job Opportunities

- Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist, Sustainable Rural Tourism
 Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management / College of Natural Resources
 North Carolina State University
 View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/ncsu_tourism.doc
- Assistant/Associate Professor, Extension Specialist, Community Viability
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 View announcement: <http://jobs.vt.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=185961>
- Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Agent
 University of Wisconsin-Extension
 View announcement: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/hr/listing.cfm?PVL=C08001>
- Director
 Western Rural Development Center
 Utah State University
 View announcement: <https://jobs.usu.edu> (Req #050671)

■ Submit Announcements

Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to Emily Shaw, emilye@srdc.msstate.edu, for possible inclusion in future issues.

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